



OFFICE OF  
STATE TREASURER  
DENISE L. NAPIER

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# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Treasury Co-Sponsors Three Landmark Financial Education Conferences**

### ***Sessions Focus on Assisting Women, Youth, Latino Communities Strengthen Money Management Skills***

In the days leading up to summer, the State Treasurer's Office led and co-sponsored three significant money management conferences in Connecticut – two of which were held for the first time. The conferences, the *Enterprising Women Money Conference*, the *Youth Financial Education Conference* and the *Latino Money Management Conference*, focused on money and credit management, entrepreneurship, financial planning and retirement planning. Each event was developed in concert with state agency partners or local non-profit organizations.

"Financial education can open doors to economic opportunity, and while that is particularly important for women, young people and Latinos, who were the focus of these conferences, it is similarly essential for every resident of Connecticut, regardless of age, economic standing or ethnic background," said State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier. "We were pleased to work closely with organizations on the front lines of this effort, helping to bring critical financial information to assist people working to achieve a better financial future for themselves, their families and their communities."

#### **Enterprising Women Money Conference (Norwalk)**

The inaugural "Enterprising Women" Money Conference was held on May 24, 2006, at Norwalk Community College, and was co-sponsored by the Women's Business Development Center in collaboration with Norwalk Community College, Bank of America and corporate, small business, and non-profit partners.



Attended by nearly 300 women, the conference provided a series of workshops on financial topics ranging from the management of personal finances to instruction on how to build a small business. The conference also featured a business exposition with nearly 30 local entrepreneurial businesswomen showcasing their products and services. The featured speakers at the event were Treasurer Nappier and keynote speaker A'Lelia Bundles, author and great-great-granddaughter of Madame C.J. Walker, noted African-American entrepreneur.

President and CEO of the Women's Business Development Center, Fran Pastore, explained that the conference "provided WBDC with an opportunity to showcase its clients and services in an educational setting with the support of State Treasurer Denise Nappier." The conference also focused on teaching women how to earn, save, and invest their money in the smartest ways possible.

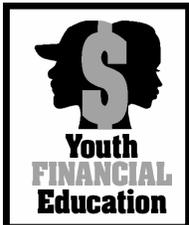
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## Youth Financial Education Conference (Hamden)

Attended by 400 students from 20 high schools throughout Connecticut, the second annual *Youth Financial Education Conference*, was held at Quinnipiac University on Wednesday, May 31, 2006. The conference was sponsored by Junior Achievement and the State Treasurer's Office, in collaboration with Bank of America and numerous non-profit and professional partners.

The conference included workshops specializing in money management topics including college preparation, credit use, auto finance, and saving and investing. Featured speakers included NBC30 news anchor Brian Schactman and nationally syndicated radio talk show host Michael Schiano, who spoke about the importance of taking charge of one's finances by controlling spending.



As part of efforts to promote youth financial education, earlier this year, the Connecticut Treasurer's Office, along with Junior Achievement of Southwestern New England, the Centers for Financial Education, Bank of America and other government agencies established the *Connecticut Jump\$tart Coalition for Youth Financial Literacy*. The Coalition will encourage youth financial education, noting that Connecticut students on average answered just 51.2% of basic personal finance questions correctly on a national *Jump\$tart* financial literacy survey taken earlier in the year. The Connecticut average was about one percentage point lower than the national average.

## Latino Money Management Conference (Cromwell)

On Friday, June 2, 2006, the Office of the State Treasurer and the Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC) co-sponsored the first-ever *Connecticut Latino Money Management Conference* at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell.

The conference, which was made possible through the support of Bank of America and other corporate and non-profit partners, was attended by approximately 275 individuals who participated in bilingual

workshop presentations on nine money management topics. Michelle Caruso Cabrera, news anchor for CNBC's "Worldwide Exchange," keynoted the conference and spoke about the importance of effective money management. Other featured speakers included Treasurer Nappier, Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez, LPRAC Executive Director Fernando Betancourt, and executives from Bank of America.



"This initiative, the very first of its kind in the state of Connecticut, can help families with savings, investment and financial planning as well as advisory services on a wide range of subjects, says Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission. "Latinos are transforming the landscape in Connecticut, the latest figures show that the growth in the last decade is largely due to the vibrant contribution of Latinos. Latinos work hard and spend just as much or maybe even more than any other ethnic group; that is why the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission is helping to build long-lasting financial relationships between the participants and the sponsoring organizations."

Treasurer Nappier has served as a catalyst and effective advocate for financial literacy for people across the state, working with the private sector and community- and faith-based organizations to expand financial education programs making the improvement of financial literacy among Connecticut residents the hallmark of her administration. Complementary to these statewide conferences, a number of additional events focusing on financial education were conducted with participation by Treasury officials throughout late May and early June.

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